

Dec. 22, 1992

Page 1

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THIS FORM IS CLASSIFIED ONLY WHEN FILLED

**Redacted version**

1. Enter above appropriate classification on FRONT and BACK

2. Message contains Weapon Data?  
("X" appropriate box. Message Center will not transmit message unless box is marked.)  
Sigma 2 ☒ YES ☐ NO3. This message consists of 23 pages  
No. 1 of 1 copies, series 1LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY  
CLASSIFIED TELECOMMUNICATIONS MESSAGE  
(See reverse side for instructions)

4. Precedence designation ("X" appropriate box):

For normal use

Emergency use only

Action: ☐ Routine ☒ Priority ☐ Immediate ☐ FLASH  
Info: ☐ (8 hrs.) ☒ (3 hrs.) ☐ (30 mins.) ☐ (ASAP)

5. Type of message ("X" appropriate box)

☐ Single address  
☒ Multiple address  
☐ Title address  
☐ Book message

For Communication Center use

002676

6. From/originator (enter name, mail code and telephone extension)

LLNL

R.E. CLOUGH, DEP. ASSOC. DIR. FOR WEAPONIZATION  
L-125, LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA

7. Official Signature

(Signature of authorizing official)

3:15 (TIME)  
P.M.

8. Date

DECEMBER 22, 1992

9. To:

GTF RADM W.G. ELLIS/D.D. OLSON, DOE WA (MC 2145)  
ALF B.G. TWINING/S.J. GUIDICE/H.T. SEASONS, DOE ABQ (MC 2072)  
PMF J. JOHNSON, AAO (MC 2075)  
PMF R. LOGHRY/E.J. HENKE, MASON & HANGER/PANTEX PLANT, AMARILLO (MC 1390)  
LAF P. CUNNINGHAM/R. GUTIERREZ/J. HASCHKE, LANL (MC 2180)  
GTF P. LOVELL, DOE, WA (MC 2145)

Distribution:

Comm Center

Lee MacLean, COMW L-125

Jack Robbins, COMW L-125

George Miller, DS L-20

SUBJECT: CRACKED W48 PIT (U)

Be brief - Eliminate unnecessary words

10. Originator (on separate lines, enter name, routing symbol and tel. no.)

R.E. CLOUGH

L-125

(510) 422-8296

11. Derivatively Classified NSI

National Security Information  
Unauthorized Disclosure subject to  
Administrative and Criminal Sanctions.

DERIVATIVE CLASSIFIER:

(Name and Title)

DECLASSIFY ON:

(Date or Event/OADR)

DERIVATIVELY CLASSIFIED BY:

(Guide or source documented)

12. Originally Classified NSI

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Unauthorized Disclosure subject to  
Administrative and Criminal Sanctions.

ORIGINALLY CLASSIFIED BY:

(Name and Title)

DECLASSIFY ON:

(Date or Event/OADR)

13. ~~XX~~ Restricted Data

This document contains Restricted Data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Unauthorized disclosure subject to Administrative and Criminal Sanctions.

DERIVATIVE CLASSIFIER:

14. ☐ Formerly Restricted DataUnauthorized disclosure subject to Administrative and Criminal Sanctions.  
Handle as Restricted Data in Foreign Dissemination  
Section 144.b Atomic Energy Act 1954

DERIVATIVE CLASSIFIER:

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LLNL  
Dec 22, 1992  
3

The delays also increasingly complicate the ability to establish why the pit cracked in the first place. This in turn, complicates and extends the dismantlement of the remaining W48s. It was hoped that the pit could be available early after the failure for disassembly and evaluation at LLNL in order to look carefully at the plutonium to see if there were indications on how it was involved.

There may have been a leak path allowing moisture to come in contact with the plutonium causing reaction products that added to the loading.

With the delays this will probably not be possible now because there has been time for additional reactions to occur. The further plutonium reactions could also extend the initial failure and make the evaluation of the cause more difficult. Attention and care is being applied to the packaging and transportation of the pit to LLNL so that additional damage is minimized.

LLNL's recommended approach of getting the unit into an argon inert gas atmosphere as quickly as possible should have been already implemented. This render-safe-procedure of the inert gas blanket around the plutonium and removing the high explosive is the only manner in which the situation can be stabilized. The DOE decision to not proceed puts DOE and Pantex at risk.

LANL concurs with the above position.

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